

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 11, 1997

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the bill could be achieved without this duplication. The duties of DEQ to ensure compliance and enforcement are deleted by the committee amendment. This would have added a great deal of cost to the bill, so clarifying language was added that states that it shall be the duty of the DEQ to receive emergency notifications and reports and to establish procedures for allowing public access to this information. Other changes contained in the committee amendment will allow for several reporting requirements to be grandfathered in so that the state is not requiring persons to refile reports that are the same as those already filed. Local emergency planning committees must comply with open meeting and public record laws, and they must also include provisions in their procedures to inform members of the public of the right to bring an action under the federal law to enforce the act. Also, the requirement that all governing bodies approve the local emergency plan is deleted, and instead the plan must simply be made available for reviewing by the governing body. Another important change made to the bill is that the language is inserted to clarify that the Emergency Management Agency may not receive more than 15 percent of the total receipts in the State Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Cash Fund for administering the fund. This will help to ensure that the money in the fund is used for the funding of specific projects as needed. The committee felt that the intent of the bill is laudable and the committee amendment is designed to allow this intent to be met without adding additional requirements over and above those currently contained in federal law. Senator Preister worked with...worked very diligently with the committee to help put together this amendment, and I think we have arrived at something that the interested parties can basically...they can agree with. I would urge the adoption of the committee amendments. I would just like to add that I don't think I've been involved with a bill that has been reworked as many times as this has, and I feel very comfortable that we have met the complaints by the business community. And I do want to compliment Senator Preister for his diligence on this bill. Thank you very much, and I would urge you to submit...excuse me, approve the committee amendments. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Mr. Clerk, I understand we have an amendment to the committee amendment?